

Questions from Title One WGEN/Acuity Workshop
November 6 & 7th 2008

Math WGEN Questions

Q. Are the math interviews mandatory or can they be given only to select students?

A. Teachers may also find the *optional* Diagnostic Interview to be helpful when working with Intensive students. When it is not clear where to start with math instruction after administering the benchmarks teachers should consider using the Diagnostic Interview tool to further develop their understanding of a student's math skills. Even though this portion is optional for teachers, it should be considered a first step when further information on student performance is needed.

Q. What is the current progress monitoring schedule for math?

A. Currently, the suggested monitoring schedule for mathematics is:
Intensive (red) students- once a month on the skills necessary for remediation
Strategic (yellow) students- if and when a teacher feels it is necessary and only on the skills necessary.

Benchmark (green) students- no monitoring necessary

Q. What are the tests to progress monitor?

A. A teacher's instruction should target specific skills and thus Progress Monitoring will be done in the corresponding measure. *Students DO NOT need to be Progress Monitored in all math measures, but the specific measure that will show the teacher the effectiveness of instruction.* You may find this measure changes over time as student master once skill and are ready to move on to the next.

Some suggestions for measures that will be most applicable by grade are below. The critical skill is in plain type and a suggested alternative is in Italics:

Kindergarten:

Number Identification

Missing Number

First Grade:

Next Number

Missing Number

Number Identification

Note: Counting and Number Facts in first grade are not recommended measures for progress monitoring.

Second Grade:

Number Facts

Missing Number

Note: In the second half of the year for second grade, you can look at using Computation as your measure, with Number Facts as a fallback.

Q. Are there any other testing windows?

A. The only testing windows for the Wireless Generation Assessments are those that have been scheduled for the BOY (Beginning of the Year), MOY (Middle of the Year) and EOY (End of the Year).

The Benchmark Assessment Windows for MATH WGEN are:

BOY: 9/15/08 to 10/17/08

MOY: 1/26/09 to 2/6/09

EOY: 4/27/09 to 5/22/09

Q. When will mCLASS Math align to our standards?

A. The math expectations are in the Wireless Generation Assessments is designed to separate students who will be successful in math from those who need additional help based on longitudinal data. The assessments were never meant to be aligned to any particular state's academic standards. These assessments are meant to be an instructional tool that is snapshot in the students' progress in math at any given time. The assessment was developed in a partnership between Wireless Generation and Herb Ginsberg at the University of Columbia. The questions have been designed to contain both easy and difficult content in order to more quickly identify high vs. low performers.

Additionally, the INDOE's Office of Student Assessment and Wireless Generation are working diligently on an alignment guide that will assist all Indiana Educators in the utilization of the WGEN Math Assessments and guide them to improve mathematics instruction based on the results of the assessments.

Q. Are there intervention ideas online for math like they are for language arts in the "Now What Tools"?

A. There are no "Now What Tools" for Mathematics at this time. However, you can find links to activities on the class and student reports. They are located on the right-hand side of the web page. For grade 2, the activities will appear when the Diagnostic Interview has been completed.

Q. What is the DOE's stance on printing AIM lines for math?

A. The IDOE has no official stance on printing AIM lines for mathematics. The IDOE's Office of Student Assessment encourages teachers, Instructional Coaches and Administrators to utilize and all tools provided by the Wireless Generation Assessments to improve classroom instruction and to meet the needs of each student.

Q. Are there additional training or online tools that can help us improve our use of the math Wireless Generation assessments?

A. The Indiana Department of Education Office of Student Assessment has a website for our Wireless Generation users. On this site you can find valuable resources and information.

http://www.doe.state.in.us/istep/diagnostic_assessment-wireless.html

Additionally, Wireless Generation has also has a website that focuses solely on Indiana and our utilization of the Wireless Generation products. On this site, you can find professional development opportunities and tools, important dates and information updates, links to additional training and simulators, etc.

To take advantage of training materials and simulators on the link below, you can use these logins and passwords: user name: *indoe*; password: *mefraz9w*.

<http://www.wirelessgeneration.com/solutions/indiana-k-2.html>.

There were three online training sessions made available in the month of November. If you were unable to attend or would like to review the content again you can go to the link below.

Link for Math presentation:

<http://webcast.streamlogics.com/audience/index.asp?eventid=34757631>

At this link is a recording of both the audio and visual presentation from the final Math session. Simply register using your email address and you can watch the presentation at any time.

Q. Why can't the math reports be printed in color?

A. Math reports can, in fact, be printed in color. First you must ensure that you are using Internet Explorer as your browser. The instructions for printing reports in color are below:

Go to "TOOLS"

Then go to "INTERNET OPTIONS"

Click on the "ADVANCED" tab

Next, scroll down to the printing choices, and select "PRINT BACKGROUND COLOR AND IMAGES" by placing a checkmark in the box.

Finally, click "APPLY" and "OK".